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Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
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Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Tenth Conference (for distribution only)

Report of Poland for the period 2012-2017

Summary**

The report provides information on the progress made by Poland on geographical names issues since the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

National names authorities. There are two commissions engaged in the standardization of geographical names in Poland: the Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects, which is affiliated to the Ministry of the Interior and Administration and establishes names used within the country's boundaries, and the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names outside the Republic of Poland, which is affiliated to the Surveyor General of Poland and is responsible for standardizing geographical names of the world in Polish, establishing the principles of romanization from languages that use non-roman writing systems, representing Poland in the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and participating in international conferences and meetings on geographical names.

National gazetteer. The new edition of the Polish national gazetteer, which contains 103,086 official names of localities and parts thereof, was published in October 2015.[1] The names are listed in a table with eight columns: the name and type of the locality are indicated in the first and second columns, while the third to fifth columns give the commune, county and voivodeship in which the locality is found. The sixth column is for the identifier of the locality, taken from the National Official Register of the Territorial Division of the Country. The seventh column

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** The full report was prepared by Maciej Zych, Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names outside the Republic of Poland. The report is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html, in the language of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/61/CRP.61.

[1] See http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/official_names.php.

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gives the genitive ending for names of localities, while the eighth column, applicable only to names of towns and villages, gives the relevant adjective. Changes to the names listed are published each year in the *Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland* and enter into force on 1 January.

Multilingual areas. According to the Act of 6 January 2005 on national and ethnic minorities and regional languages, traditional names in a minority language may be used as "additional names". Altogether, 453 new names of localities have been established since 2012, of which 35 were German names in 4 communes and 418 were Kashubian names in 12 communes. Since 2005, minority names have been introduced for 1,240 localities, disaggregated as follows: 359 German names, 815 Kashubian names, 30 Lithuanian names, 27 Belarusian names and 9 Lemko names.[2]

Exonyms. A new list of Polish exonyms was published at the end of 2013.[3] It gives Polish names for 13,358 geographical objects outside the boundaries of Poland. For each object, the Polish name and the original name (endonym) are given, along with the object's coordinates. If necessary, additional information and observations are provided. The list has been divided into eight parts, of which seven correspond to the traditionally determined parts of the world (Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Australia and Oceania and Antarctica) and the eighth is devoted to undersea objects. The names are posted in the alphabetical order of the countries and Non-Self-Governing Territories. Names of geographical features of individual countries or Territories are arranged by categories. The list has been published in Polish only, but the inset is available in English.

Toponymic data files. The National Register of Geographical Names is maintained by the Main Geodetic and Cartographic Documentation Centre, responsibility for which is vested in the Surveyor General of Poland. Currently, it holds some 247,700 names, of which some 124,600 are names of localities and parts thereof and some 123,000 are names of physiographic objects (some 21,800 names of water objects, some 34,700 names of land objects and some 66,500 names of other objects).

Terminology in the standardization of geographical names. The new Polish translation of the Group's glossary of terms for the standardization of geographical names was published at the end of 2014.[4] This is a new translation of the English version from 2002 and the addendum from 2007.

Writing systems and pronunciation. As a part of its activity, the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names outside the Republic of Poland adopts rules of romanization for geographical objects whose names are originally expressed in non-roman writing systems. Rules of transliteration and rules of Polish phonetic transcription are recommended for use in Polish cartographic products and other publications.

Country names. The third edition of the official list of names of countries and Non-Self-Governing Territories was published at the end of 2015.[5] The list contains 195 countries recognized by Poland and 69 Non-Self-Governing Territories. The names of the countries, Territories and their capitals have obtained the approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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[2] A full and regularly updated list of the additional names in minority languages is available from http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/files/list_of_minority_names.pdf.

[3] Available from http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/wpngs_en.php.

[4] Available from http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/glossary_of_terms_PL.pdf.

[5] Available from http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/wykaz.php.